

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 21 are amended to cure the several rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 12-23 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 because the specification fails adequately to disclose how the spacers and strips are metallurgically bonded to one another.

Claims 12, 13, 22 and 23 do not recite components being metallurgically bonded to one another. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection of claims 12, 13, 22, and 23 is respectfully requested.

As to claims 14-21 applicant submits that metallurgical bonding of components is well-known in the art and is disclosed in U. S. Patent No 5921486 which uses copper brazing and high temperature diffusion welding for metallurgically bonding components in papermaking refiner plates. An amendment to the specification is proposed pointing this out. The examiner is urged to approve the proposed amendment to page 7 and withdraw this basis for rejecting claims 12-23.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The present invention is directed to screenplates as an improvement over prior art wedge wire designs. In a wedge wire design with slot widths of 0.004" or less it is not practical to have more than about 20 slots per inch. As a result, a maximum open area in the screen is about 8.0% as noted on page 3 of the specification.

The present invention by means of strips and spacers joined by metallurgical bonding provides a screenplate of very fine slot width with up to 27% open area.

Gruiten is directed to a welding gap screen including spacers 1 fitted with welding strips 3, 4 for electric welding to elongate strips 6. In Gruiten, spacers are welded one by one between adjacent elongate strips. A chief consideration is to accomplish the bonding of elongate strips to spacers without distorting the spacers and consequently causing distortions in the screening gap. Gruiten is silent on aspects of applicant's claims of record including separation of cross bars by two to twenty

times the length of cross bars, open area of up to 27%, the spacer cross bars having a length less than four times their width.

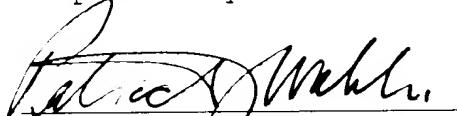
In an obviousness rejection, the examiner must provide a reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to modify a reference. The motivation to so modify a reference must stem from some teaching, suggestion, or inference in the prior art or from the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. Gruiten provides neither the motivation nor the teaching or inference. The examiner cites no knowledge available to those skilled in the art. The only source of such teaching is applicant's disclosure which is not a proper basis for modifying Gruiten. Gruiten is nearly fifty years old and the passage of such time strongly suggests applicant's invention as defined by the claims is not obvious. The state of the art is shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application and in Malm cited in this application. Malm provides gaps 12 of 0.05 to 1.0mm which can be seen as providing a very small open area with respect to total width of bar shaped elements 11. In the time elapsed between Gruiten and

Malm, Gruiten has contributed nothing in the field to suggest papermaking screen plates with open area up to 27%.

The examiner is urged to allow the claims over Gtruiten and the combination of Gruiten and Malm.

Stamford, Connecticut  
August 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

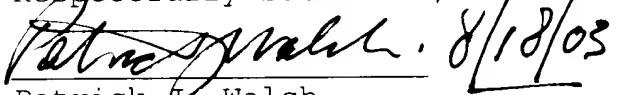
  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached document was sent via the United States Postal Service this 18th day of August 2003 in a first class postage prepaid envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Mail Stop Amendment, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

18 August 2003  
Stamford, Connecticut.

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